

Kouropoulos
09/612,612

REMARKS

The undersigned requests a personal interview with the Examiner in charge of this application.

The Examiner objected to the length of the Abstract, which has been shortened.

Claim 12 was objected to because of an informality. This has been corrected.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 10, 12 and 14 were rejected as being anticipated by Kou.

Claims 3 and 6 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kou.

Claims 7 and 11 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kou in view of Scheurich.

Kou discloses a power management system including multiple sleep states selected by the user. In the described system, the computer is connected to a number of household appliances with multiple sleep buttons. These buttons act as power switches for various appliances other than the computer (see abstract). The system of Kou is totally unlike and unrelated to the present invention. In the present invention, there is a stand alone device (ie, a housing) with input and output ports for the various communication sources, ie, telephone, dsl, cable. There is a relay in the stand alone device for each of these sources. Each relay is connected to a voltage sensor which is between the AC power supply and the computer. When the sensor detects a drop in voltage to the computer, whether due to a fault in the power or the computer going to "sleep" due to a period of inactivity, the relay or relays are triggered to disconnect the input and output ports from each other. Kou

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does not teach or suggest any such system. The closest the reference comes to any of this is in col. 5, lines 1-10, "Whether power will be reduced or eliminated to a particular one of the subsystems is determined not only by conventional parameters such as inactive parameters..." No other explanation or description is forthcoming. The Examiner refers to col. 13, last paragraph, "The use of the word button in the appended claims should be understood to refer to any of the various types of switches including momentary pushbuttons, throw-type switches, capacitance-triggered switches, and the like". Here, the patentee is referring to switches which are activated by the user of the equipment. In the present invention, the relays (not mentioned in the patent) are under the control of the sensor. The undersigned is unable to find anything in this patent which remotely resembles the present invention in which relays are employed to separate input and output communications ports when there is a voltage drop due to the computer going into a sleep mode or a power fault.

Scheurich has an intelligent power strip and was cited for a relay. In this case, there is a circuit responsive to an incoming call which will activate a relay to power on a computer so that the computer system will respond to the call. This is the direct opposite of what occurs in the present invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to call for the separate housing containing the input and output communication ports and the relay between, which will disconnect the connection

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when a drop in voltage is sensed. Contrary to statements by the Examiner, Kou does not teach or suggest such a configuration, as pointed out above.

All the remaining claims depend from claim 1 and should be allowed along with claim 1. Some of these claims are quite specific. For example, claim 8 (by virtue of its dependency) calls for relays between all the various types of communication ports, a manual override switch for manually triggering said relay to disconnect the input and output ports (see Figs. 5 and 6, and page 14 and elsewhere), and the AC power switch. This combination of features is not taught or suggested in any of the art of record.

Claims 10 and 13 call for the monitor being connected to the voltage sensor. This feature also appears to be lacking in the art of record.

Claim 14 has been canceled and replaced by a new claim 15 which is drawn narrowly to the configuration in which the monitor is connected to the voltage sensor. For reasons given above, this claim is believed to distinguish over the art of record.


In view of the foregoing, it is urged that the claims are now drawn to patentable subject matter and should be allowed.

A conscientious effort has been made to place this application in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned or Mr. Kroll if further changes are required to obtain allowance of the application.

A favorable action is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U. S.

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Leonard Belkin